

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new). A method for operating an injection valve having at least one piezoelectric actuator, a displaceable component, a hydraulic element, and a common housing with said actuator, said component, and said element disposed therein, the method which comprises:

reversibly controlling a stroke of the displaceable component by applying a drive voltage to the actuator; and

biasing the actuator with a bias voltage having a bias opposing a polarization direction of the actuator.

Claim 12 (new). The method according to claim 11, wherein the bias voltage is lower than a voltage causing a change in a polarity of the actuator.

Claim 13 (new). The method according to claim 11, which comprises increasing the stroke of the displaceable component by applying the bias voltage.

Claim 14 (new). The method according to claim 11, which comprises determining the bias voltage to effect a reduction in an energy consumption of the actuator.

Claim 15 (new). The method according to claim 11, which comprises specifying the drive voltage together with bias voltage for setting a defined stroke of the displaceable component.

Claim 16 (new). The method according to claim 15, which comprises determining a volume of material injected with the injection valve by way of the defined stroke of the displaceable component.

Claim 17 (new). In a control unit for generating a drive voltage for an injection valve, the injection valve having at least one piezoelectric actuator, a displaceable component, and a hydraulic element commonly disposed in a common housing, and wherein a stroke of the displaceable component is reversibly controllable by application of a drive voltage to the actuator, the improvement which comprises: said control unit being configured to generate a bias voltage for biasing the actuator in opposition to a polarization direction of the actuator, and to set the drive voltage to increase the stroke of the displaceable component using the bias voltage.

Claim 18 (new). The control unit according to claim 17, wherein the bias voltage is lower than a voltage that would result in a change in a polarity of the actuator.

Claim 19 (new). In combination with a gasoline engine, the control unit according to claim 17 configured to drive an injection valve for injecting fuel into the gasoline engine.

Claim 20 (new). In combination with a diesel engine, the control unit according to claim 17 configured to drive an injection valve for injecting fuel into the diesel engine.